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**1989/06/06**

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CONFIDENTIAL  
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Department of State

15572  
E22 INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION EAP-00

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ACTION OFFICE C21-02

INFO P-01 HA-01 UN-01 EAP-05 /013 AI DT

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AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, AT 1500 HOURS  
LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 6. AT THAT TIME, WE INFORMED  
ZHANG OF OUR RECOMMENDATION TO WASHINGTON THAT  
THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF HUMANITARIAN AID BE  
HANDLED THROUGH RED CROSS CHANNELS. HE HAD NO  
RESPONSE. LILLEY

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0211

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 15572

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PHUN, CH  
SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR  
-- CHINA

REF: STATE 177048

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES  
DO NOT NORMALLY ACCEPT HUMANITARIAN DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UNLESS CHINA HAS  
FIRST ISSUED A FORMAL NOTICE THAT SUCH AID  
IS NECESSARY AND WELCOME. IN THE CASE OF FOREIGN  
ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT MILITARY VIOLENCE,  
SUCH A NOTIFICATION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ISSUED,  
AND GIVEN CURRENT POLITICAL TENSIONS, UNILATERAL  
OFFERS OF AID COULD WELL BE PERCEIVED (AND  
DENOUNCED) AS INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL  
ON THIS ISSUE HAVE NO DOUBT BEEN FURTHER INFLAMED  
BY THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE  
VIOLENCE.  
AFFAIRS.

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY BELIEVES  
THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO WORK DIRECTLY THROUGH THE  
CHINESE RED CROSS (CRC) IN BEIJING IS UNLIKELY  
TO SUCCEED, AND MIGHT PROVOKE A STRONGLY  
NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. A  
MORE INDIRECT APPROACH, HOWEVER, OUTSIDE OF  
NORMAL BILATERAL POLITICAL CHANNELS, MIGHT  
DEFUSE PRC DEFENSIVENESS TO SOME EXTENT AND  
CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT PRC TO ACCEPT  
THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER.

4. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT  
EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANNELING OUR OFFER  
OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)  
HEADQUARTERS. BY WORKING THROUGH THE ICRC-CRC  
CONNECTION OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENTAL CHANNELS,  
WE MAY BE ABLE TO ALLEVIATE CHINESE POLITICAL  
SENSITIVITIES WHILE UTILIZING ICRC EXPERTISE  
TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF AID RESOURCES  
TO CHINA. AT THE SAME TIME, WORKING INDIRECTLY  
THROUGH THE ICRC WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DILUTE  
THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY  
PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED OUR INTENTION TO HELP THE  
VICTIMS OF MILITARY VIOLENCE.

5. AOCM AND ECONCOMS CALLED ON ZHANG YIJUN,  
DIRECTOR, MFA DEPARTMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN

United States Department of State  
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review  
Review Authority: MILLER, ROBERT  
Date: 01/16/96  
Case ID: 9206307

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